



FirstNet[®]

FirstNet's Third Public Notice Regarding Proposed Interpretations of Parts of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 ("*Third Notice*")

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

WHERE CAN I FIND THE FULL TEXT OF THE ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR FIRSTNET?

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 ("Act") can be found at [47 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.](#)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ACT?

The Act requires FirstNet to ensure the establishment of a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network based on a single national architecture that evolves with technological advances and initially consists of a core and a radio access network.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE THIRD NOTICE?

The purpose of the *Third Notice* is to respond to comments and to further clarify FirstNet's proposed interpretations related to the definition and scope of the term "public safety entity" as used in the Act. The *Third Notice* is a follow-up to a key element of the *First Notice* released in September 2014. In the *First Notice*, FirstNet provided preliminary interpretations on, among other things, which entities beyond traditional first responders would qualify as a "public safety entity" under the Act. The *Third Notice* seeks comments on a refined definition of the term, including how it applies to non-traditional first responders.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED FIRSTNET TO FOCUS THE THIRD NOTICE AROUND THE DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC SAFETY ENTITY"?

FirstNet considers all of the issues raised in the *First Notice* to be critical to the successful deployment of the nationwide public safety broadband network. The definition of "public safety entity" is particularly important with regard to (1) the acquisition planning process, as it provides key inputs into understanding the resources that will be derived from, and available to qualifying public safety entities. The definition helps define the public safety user addressable market in support of FirstNet's financial sustainability model; and (2) the successful implementation of FirstNet's mission that, among other things, will require the promotion and adoption of the network by public safety entities.

ARE THE INTERPRETATIONS IN THIS NOTICE FINAL? HOW LONG IS THE COMMENT PERIOD?

No, they are not. The *Third Notice* seeks comments on preliminary interpretations of the Act. FirstNet will review and consider comments submitted in response to the *Third Notice* in making its final interpretations on the matters discussed in the *Third Notice*. FirstNet does not, however, currently anticipate issuing further notices and/or opportunities to comment on the preliminary conclusion in the *Third Notice* and, thus, encourages all stakeholders to review the *Third Notice* and provide comments within the 30 day comment period that begins after publication of the *Third Notice* in the Federal Register.

HOW CAN I SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE NOTICE?

Written comments may be submitted electronically within 30 days after publication of the *Third Notice* in the Federal Register through www.regulations.gov or by mail to FirstNet, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192, Mail Stop 243, Attention: Responses to FirstNet's Third Public Notice and Comment. Written comments will be made part of the public record without change.

IS THERE A MAXIMUM LENGTH FOR COMMENTS?

There is no maximum length for comments to the *Third Notice*.

WILL THERE BE AN EX PARTE MEETING OR REPLY COMMENT PERIOD?

In an effort to avoid any potential conflicts related to the acquisition process, FirstNet does not plan to schedule either any *ex parte* meeting or a reply comment period at this time.

